needy flying clubs, approved by Directorate General of Civil Aviation for conducting flying training for Commercial Pilot Licence.

Pilot training school at Gondia

†2119. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of acute shortage of pilots in the country, a decision has been taken to set up a state-of-art pilot training school in Gondia district of Vidarbha;

(b) if so, whether collaboration have been made with any foreign company therein;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when this training school would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In order to select a suitable Joint Venure Partner, Expression of Interest (EoI) were invited by Airports Authority of India on global basis and seven bidders have been shortlisted, which include foreign companies also. Request for Proposal (RFP) have been issued to these bidders.

(d) Upgradation of infrastructure at Birsi airport in Gondia is expected to be complete by June, 2007. However, formation of the Joint Venture Company and other work of the Training Institute will be completed depending upon the response received from the prospective Joint Venture Partner.

New Airport at Karwar

2120.SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up an airport at Karwar in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether other airports in Karnataka, particularly, Mangalore airport, is upgraded to facilitate operation of more high capacity international flights; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.